



## IOWA SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK

Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the National Weather Service have designated March 21 through March 25 as Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, the National Weather Service in Des Moines will cover severe weather topics. Today's topic is flooding.

Flooding is one of the leading causes of weather related fatalities in the United States. On average, flooding claims nearly 90 lives each year. More than half of these deaths occur in motor vehicles when people attempt to drive through flooded roadways. This happens because people underestimate the force and power of water, especially when it is moving.

Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry off an adult. Twelve inches of water can float a small car. If that water is moving, it can carry that car away. Eighteen to twenty-four inches of flowing water can carry away most vehicles, including large SUVs. It is impossible to tell the exact depth of water covering a roadway or the condition of the road below the water. This is especially true at night when your vision is more limited. It is never safe to drive or walk through flood waters. Any time you come to a flooded road, walkway, or path, follow this simple rule: Turn Around Don't Drown.

Resource: [Turn Around Don't Drown Public Service Announcement](#)

Knowing when severe weather is possible will give you time to prepare! You can always find current conditions, forecasts and hazardous weather information at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov)

If you're not on your computer, you can access the same information via your mobile device at [mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov)

For additional safety information visit:  
[www.weather.gov/om/severeweatherready.gov](http://www.weather.gov/om/severeweatherready.gov)  
[weather.gov/desmoines](http://weather.gov/desmoines)

For more information contact:

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*Building a Weather-Ready Nation*